

From: The Herring
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:24am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing to express my disagreement with the terms of the antitrust settlement with Microsoft. The issue for me is that the settlement, while superficially inflicting a penalty on Microsoft, does nothing to change the firm's behavior from this point onward. In fact, donations of software to schools only help Microsoft to cement its dominance of the desktop operating system market.

Rather than focusing on financial penalties for Microsoft's past activities, the settlement should require the firm to either adopt open standards or publish detailed specifications of its own standards so that any skilled individual can understand them. This would allow interoperability between Microsoft's Windows and Office software and competing products, such as UNIX-based operating systems and Sun's StarOffice. Creating interoperability is a necessary condition for restoring competition in the software industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David Geffen